



Draw!

Raúl Colón

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Based on his own childhood, beloved and award-winning artist Raúl Colón's wordless book is about the limitless nature of creativity and imagination.

A boy alone in his room.

Pencils.

Sketchbook in hand.

What would it be like to on safari?

Imagine.

Draw!

A boy named Leonardo begins to imagine and then draw a world afar — first a rhinoceros, and then he meets some monkeys, and he always has a friendly elephant at his side. Soon he finds himself in the jungle and carried away by the sheer power of his imagination, seeing the world through his own eyes and making friends along the way.

Draw! Details

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Author : Raúl Colón

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From Reader Review Draw! for online ebook

Claudine Yanting says

If a book can inspire you to do something (paint, travel, see the world, care for animals), you know it has done its part well. Love the life in these illustrations.

...

Feature of this book on my blog:

It has been declared, many times, that Writing and Reading can take you places. Nearer locations you have stayed at and known for half a lifetime. Faraway places you've dreamed of, or can imagine, through the pictures in your head.

So here we have a boy.

In his room.

Reading a book about Africa.

He grabs a sketchbook and pencil, and draws and draws. He draws himself into Africa ...

Full review: <http://www.carryusoffbooks.com/blog/p...>

Holly says

Reading is not the only thing that can take you to different worlds - so can drawing! There are no limits to the imagination. After reading a book about Africa, a young boy in his room starts drawing a journey to Africa and what he sees there. The beautiful, savannah-hued illustrations capture the mightiness of elephants, the curiosity of zebras, the loping of giraffes, the majesty of lions, companionship of gorillas, and the stampeding of rhinos. Make sure to look at the title page and the knapsack of sandwiches - they show up in the hands of the gorillas and monkeys. I noticed that the boy's bedside table suggests he may even be sickly - there's an inhaler and a bottle of medicine there. It's even more important that he be able to escape the confines of his room and travels to other worlds. The Author's Note at the end explains how Raul Colon, the illustrator, would spend long hours drawing in his room in New York City, inspired by books, comics, and other artists.

Jill says

The prize-winning author and illustrator recalls his childhood in this wordless tour of his early imagination. As a child, he had chronic asthma, and sometimes had to spend weeks at a time confined to his bed. But in spite of his indisposition, he managed to travel all over the world in his mind.

Children can easily see how his drawings took him from his tame and relatively safe bedroom to the middle of an African safari. Carrying his sketchbook, sometimes he draws the animals, and sometimes they even draw him!

In the end, he is back in his bedroom, surrounded by his books and sketches that he made while “on” his safari.

Colón used colored pencils, grainy paper, and an etching instrument to achieve an effect somewhere between intaglio and pointillism, with the muted palette of the bedroom changing into the rich tones of Africa on the boy’s adventures. The illustrations are gorgeous.

Evaluation: Wordless books offer many opportunities to encourage creativity in readers. Children will also learn about many of the majestic animals of Africa, and perhaps be inspired to find out more about the wildlife and ecosystem.

Dolly says

This is a fun wordless picture book that celebrates art, wildlife and the power of imagination. The pictures are very nicely detailed, with subtle humor and majestic scenes.

We love the boy's ability to project himself into the scenes and our girls love his artwork.

We really enjoyed reading this book together and we appreciated how the author's note at the end of the book explains his personal connection with the story.

Edward Sullivan says

A boy alone in his room with books, pencils, a sketchbook, and a wild, limitless imagination. A stunning wordless picture book celebrating creativity and imagination.

Kristine Hansen says

A book entirely without words, encouraging your child to create their own explanations for the artistic safari that takes place. I Love all the different animals, and enjoyed the artwork. There's nice bits of humor throughout. I wish I could go on a drawing excursion like this!

Shay Rost says

"Draw" is a wordless picture book for young children ages preschool through first grade.

Text to Self: The little boy is using his drawing and creativity to help him imagine animals in Africa. He is using his drawings to take him to another world. He is using his drawings as a way to record his thoughts. I

can relate to this because while I don't draw, I use music as my creative outlet. When I am playing music, it takes me to another world. It takes me to a place of ultimate happiness and it lets me escape from reality. He uses drawing the same way that I use music in my life.

Text-to-Text: Reading this book reminded me of the character Ally in "Fish in a Tree". Ally is constantly making "mind movies" in her head which gives her inspiration for her drawings in her Sketchbook of Impossible Things. Ally is struggling with reading, so she uses drawing as her way to see the world in her own way. She becomes inspired to draw in different situations that she is faced with. She would rather have her face in her sketchbook all day than to have to deal with school and reading.

Text to World:

This book could relate to the world in the fact that it shows us that using your imagination can make you happy. I think it could also teach children that anything is possible with a little imagination.

Amanda says

I love the way Colón uses different artistic styles to differentiate reality from imagination. This book is a celebration of imagination and art. Colón's characteristic textured, color-rich illustrations are beautiful and will surely inspire readers to try creating their own. That being said, there's not enough story here to satisfy me. The African safari sequence doesn't have enough tension or forward movement. The main character shown before and after doesn't appear to have changed in any way, other than his impressive drawings. For me, the book falls a bit flat and doesn't invite multiple readings. It's too bad, though, because there really is some wonderful artwork in it.

Jim Erikson says

Colón charts his own path in a medium well known in the 80s and 90s from the likes of Chris Vanallsburg and William Joyce. Not to mention, it reminds me of Nancy Erikson's beautiful prismacolor on paper work! Nancy reminds me how long this kind of layering takes, so I appreciate how much work the book represents. Colón's flawless drawing! I could sit and look at the giraffe page for hours! I loved watching how he used the palette for all the shadows and nuances. Look at those reds in the chin stripes on the zebra, and the blue green shadows on the backs of the giraffes' legs! And the way drawing paper insists on its own texture despite the colors makes each page so look-at-able.

The peritext says Raúl Colón used lithograph pencils, and Nancy and I discussed whether he did the scratches in the paper beforehand so the drawing wouldn't go into those grooves or whether he scratched afterward to create those interesting contour lines. I think Nancy is probably right: he likely grooved his pencil drawing before digging in with the prismacolors.

The little jokes in the narrative were a lot of fun: Making the front and back of the story in the 'real' world less realistic, drawn with black outline; moving out of imagination was a visual loss, more spare; keeping the animal from the previous page and showing it in the background on the next page--the rhino was pretty funny; the way the little heron gets on its tiptoes to try to see the elephant drawing; boy on back of elephant, birds on back of buffalo. Not laugh-out-loud jokes, just fun.

It's a simple narrative: draw pictures of folks and share sandwiches with them. As with other memorable books about making pictures (Harold and the Purple Crayon, Journey) Colón's work makes magic out of visual imagining.

A wonderful main character with brown skin, strong multiculturalism without making the story follow that topic. There was no trace of tokenism, just good representation in a strong wordless picturebook.

Karin says

This is a great book about losing yourself in your imagination. A friend mentioned to me that this is a great companion or read-alike for *WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE*. Both stories start in the bedroom and end in the bedroom. In between, the reader gets lost in an amazing adventure. *DRAW!* is set in Africa and follows a young artist as he draws his way across the country while he draws the beautiful animals that live there. The Colon's illustrations are gorgeous - the use of texture, superb. This is definitely a book to add to your collection.

Heidi-Marie says

I was halfway through the book before I realized I was reading a wordless picture book. Very engrossed in the pictures and all that was going on therein. I very much enjoyed that. Especially the little back or side stories of the sandwiches, or the animals after he left them. Must try in storytime.

1/27/16 Used in my D is for... theme, and as the literacy moment. Each child took a turn coming up and identifying the animal on the page. Then they told me what letter that started with. Then they took the little car and drove (d word!) it through the tunnel with the correct starting letter. Had enough kids take turns through the rhino, then we read through the rest together, still calling out the starting letters for the animals and his sandwich. So even though the flow of the book was disrupted doing Literacy Moment, they still got the end with his pictures on display. Really good.

2/1/17 Used the same way as last time--in the D theme for the literacy moment and driving through the tunnel. We ended around Lion. I also had them picking a color and finding the starting letter for that, since I had more than 9 kids and wasn't sure if they would all want a turn. Went well. They really enjoyed the activity and pictures.

1/31/18 Did the same as previous two times and also ended around Lion. Only had my 3 regulars and then a couple newbies who didn't come up. So we just did animals and didn't worry about colors. Then we did them all together for the rest of the book. Worked well.

2/9/18 SD went through this with Daddy on Father Night. So I got to see her with it for bedtime tonight. She wanted to do all the reading--since it had no words. (She's not enjoying words as much--too much work right now. Understandable and even typical. At least she is still loving books and being read to. Words will come around.) She read this to me and she did an excellent job in catching various clues, seeing what might come next. Great way to practice her vocabulary and storytelling skills. Will need to bring more wordless ones home for her to enjoy on her own and telling aloud.

Agn? says

Draw! is a wordless picturebook that celebrates the power of art and imagination.

Raúl Colón employs two different art styles to differentiate between the real and imaginary worlds, and although I am not too crazy about the illustrations of the reality, the boy's imaginary world is vibrant with color:

I guess that was the point :)

Elizabeth A says

This is a wordless picture book targeted for the 4-8 year old crowd, and while the art is wonderful, there is not enough of a story here. A little boy is stuck in his room with art supplies and a book on African animals. I love how his creative imagination took him on a safari, but there just wasn't enough to think about. My fave part was how he packed his backpack - art supplies, an umbrella, and half a dozen sandwiches. Kinda how I pack my bag too. Granted, this might be perfect for 4 year olds, and that I am not.

Nadhira Ramadhani says

The power of art and imagination combined! An amazing picture book! :D

Jennifer says

I am not crazy about wordless picture books, but "Draw" is definitely worth a look. It shows how a childhood imagination can be expressed through a creative outlet: in this case, drawing. There are even a few nods to comical amusement with monkeys eating sandwiches and drawing a picture of the boy. All-in-all, the author (illustrator?) does a great job with making the story come to life by showing instead of telling.

I would recommend this to imaginative children, and children who love drawing and silliness.
